II.—SYPHILIS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

I. SYPHILIS OF THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD, showing the Part which this Agent plays in the Production of Paralysis, Epilepsy, Insanity, Headache, Neuralgia, Hysteria, Hypochondriasis, and other Mental and Nervous Derangements. By Thos. Stretch Dowse, M. D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1879. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.

II. MÉMOIRE SUR LES AFFECTIONS SYPHILITIQUES PRÉCOCES DES CENTRES NERVEUX. Par le Dr. Charles Mauriac. Paris, 1879. (*Memoir on the Early Syphilitic Disorders of the Nerve Centres.*)

The importance of syphilis as a cause of nervous disease, and the protean forms in which it may thus manifest itself are so evident, that the literature of the subject seems hardly equal to the demands. Apart from a few foreign works, such as Heubner's valuable treatise, of which we believe no English translation has appeared, and that of Fournier, noticed in this journal last year, there has been no important memoir devoted especially to this class of syphilitic manifestations published for many years. The volumes before us, therefore, though not extensive or exhaustive, are nevertheless very useful and timely publications.

In his opening chapter Dr. Dowse gives his views of the history and nature of syphilis. He endorses on the strength of his own experience the statement of Wilks, "that in those cases where the primary and secondary manifestations of syphilis are least marked, the viscera and nervous system are affected in an inverse ratio." This fact, so far as it is a fact, has some important clinical bearings, as he says, for patients may thus be entirely ignorant of ever having had the disease, when its effects on the nervous system are very decided. The diagnosis of nervous syphilitic disease is a very important matter when, in cases like the above, the causal history is lacking. In syphilis of the brain, Dr. Dowse, like other writers, lays special stress upon headache as a diagnostic point, when the dura mater is the seat of the syphilitic hyperplasia; an intense headache, remittent, and unrelieved by pressure. Inflammations of the pia mater, on the other hand, are accompanied with only slight pain, but are far more serious in their further progress. The headache in these cases is diffuse, there is more constitutional disturbance; and the damage to brain substance is liable to produce various physical and mental disturbances, epileptiform symptons, etc. As regards the arterial changes in cerebral syphilis, Dr. Dowse thinks that the facial expression, and the difference between real and apparent age are of special value in cases of brain symptoms with no syphilitic history, in suggesting the syphilitic infection. A peculiar headache has been observed by the author in cases of syphilitic dethe most of the arguments are well worthy of perusal. We can only refer the reader for these to the volume itself, which should be in the library of every neurologist. The subject is one that has up to this time been too sadly neglected.

III.—TEXT BOOKS OF PHYSIOLOGY.

I. A Text Book of Physiology. By M. Foster. London: MacMillan & Co. 1879. Pp. 720.

II. Handbuch der Physiologie. Herausgegeben von Dr. L. Hermann. Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel. 1879.

I. A test, not altogether unreliable, of the merits of a book, is its sale. On this score Mr. Foster cannot complain, since his Physiology has passed through three editions within the three years of its existence, and a fourth cheaper students' edition is promised by the publishers. Since the first edition the work has been slightly enlarged, and numerous cuts of instruments have been added, not merely ornamental but decidedly instructive. On the whole, the book can be called the standard work in the English language, while it has none superior in any other tongue. It is, perhaps, the only work in our language which represents physiology fully as an experimental science. Its completeness is admirable. The anxious student can find not only the actual facts of the science, but also the mode in which they were obtained. Modern bibliographical references are given very fully, while the sources of older quotations are sufficiently indicated. The author proves to the student not only a compiler, but also a judicious critic. Where conflicting results are given, both sides receive an impartial representation, while any differences in the experimental conditions are fully alluded to. Older or unreliable statements are not ignored, but allowed the space which they deserve. A commendable feature of the book is also the arrangement of topics. By introducing a thorough description of the general mechanism of the nervous system in the first part of the book, the author is enabled to complete each chapter with the full details of the nervous connections of the organs considered.

Foster's Physiology is one of those books which can bear to have their faults pointed out fully. Of actual errors we have met with but one—the statement (p. 68) that the negative variation of the nerve-current can cause secondary (induced) contractions. This, though an error, is not a very serious one. As regards any omissions, but very few authors of any importance are not mentioned in connection with the topic which they have investigated. Perhaps the most flagrant instance is the omission of the researches of Francois-Franck and Pitres, on the excitability of the cerebral cortex. These researches have certainly